FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

15 MAY 1984

Iran-Iraq War

"Informed shipping sources" in London cited by INA confirmed that two tankers were hit by missiles in the Iraqi air attack south of Khark Island on the night of 13 May. One, an Iranian tanker, was carrying oil from the island while the other, a Greek vessel, was on its way to the Khark oil terminal. Further south, another Kuwaiti oil tanker was damaged in a bomb attack by an unidentified aircraft on 14 May, the chairman of the Kuwaiti Oil Tanker Company announced in a statement reported by KUNA. No one was killed, but a bomb blew a hole in the ship's side, he disclosed. Iraq's information minister disclaimed responsibility for the incident, asserting in a statement reported by INA that his country's Air Force and Navy had carried out no activity in the Gulf since midnight on 13 May. Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti tanker damaged in a previous attack by an unidentified aircraft was repaired in Bahrain and is scheduled to resume its voyage to Britain, KUNA noted.

Jewish Conference in Morocco

The Syrian Foreign Ministry recalled its ambassador to Morocco for "consultations" following a recent Jewish conference in Rabat in which Israel is participating at the official invitation of the Moroccan Government, Damascus radio announced. By hosting this conference, Morocco "disavows" the blood of Arab "martyrs" and ignores Arab summit, ICO, and Jerusalem Committee resolutions, the radio asserted, adding that Syria views this "grave step" with "extreme concern." Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali described the conference as a positive step that will help achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region, according to Radio Monte Carlo. An editorial in the Jordanian newspaper *AR-RA'Y* reported by Amman radio welcomed "dialogue among religions" as a "noble means" to achieve understanding. However, it accused the conference of deviating from this objective, turning into a "Zionist action" aimed at "dealing unilaterally" with Morocco.

Lebanon

The ministerial committee established to formulate a Cabinet policy statement reached full agreement on the government's objectives and will submit its draft statement to the Cabinet for approval, Beirut radio reported. Prime Minister Rashid Karami, who chaired the meeting, said afterward in remarks broadcast by the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio that the committee had reached "unanimous and complete agreement on every point and every word" in its statement.

Karami also apologized to the people for the continuing violence in the capital, promising that measures will be taken to achieve security. The prime minister's apology followed further shelling across the contact lines which killed 2 children and wounded 20 others at a school in East Beirut, according to Voice of Lebanon radio. A spokesman for the Lebanese Forces announced in a statement broadcast by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon that his side had abided by the cease-fire but would henceforth "violently respond" to any shelling. Meanwhile, an Amal Movement statement carried by Beirut radio stressed Amal's full commitment to the cease-fire and called on the Lebanese Army to stabilize the security situation.

In the east the Syrians have redeployed in positions south of the Beirut-Damascus Highway which they evacuated last winter and also reinforced their lines in the Al-Biqa' valley with rocket launchers and heavy artillery, according to Jerusalem and Voice of Lebanon radios.

Libya

The 13 "terrorist agents" killed or captured in Tripoli recently were recruited by U.S. intelligence from the Muslim Brotherhood to assassinate Libyan officials, foreign diplomats, and other foreigners and to destroy "vital economic establishments," according to a statement issued by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Justice and broadcast by Tripoli radio. The statement alleged that the members of the group were trained in Sudan by U.S., British, and Sudanese officers and denied that the group attacked Bab al-'Aziziyah, where Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's headquarters is located. The statement accused the United States, Britain, the FRG, Sudan, and other countries of "protecting" those responsible for the events in Tripoli. In a related development, the authorities captured another member of the "terrorist group," according to Tripoli radio.

Meanwhile, the National Front for the Salvation of Libya (NFSL) again denied that any Arab or non-Arab party other than the NFSL was involved in the Tripoli operation, according to an NFSL statement reported by SUNA. The statement charged that by means of these allegations Al-Qadhdhafi sought to play down the size and capabilities of the Libyan opposition and to justify the "crimes and conspiracies" which he intended to carry out in "the near future" against Sudan, Tunisia, and Egypt.

PLO Affairs

The deputy leaders of the PFLP, DFLP, and the Palestinian Communist Party arrived in Algiers on 13 May to continue the intra-Palestinian dialogue, APS reported. Baghdad Voice of PLO radio chided the PFLP and DFLP for delaying talks with Fatah officials in Algiers, asserting that it is time for "some Palestinian sides to grow up."

Damascus radio's "Palestine broadcast" reacted to further reports that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will transfer his headquarters to Cairo by asserting that, whatever steps 'Arafat takes, it is an established fact that he has "deviated" from the Palestinian people and joined the opponents of the Palestinian revolution.

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Bulgarian Party Delegation Visits, Met by Karmal

LD140836 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0515 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Kabul, May 13, BAKHTAR — Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, received Bulgarian delegation headed by Krustyu Trichkov, member of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party and first deputy chairman of the National Council of the Fatherland Front of the People's Republic of Bulgaria [PRB].

The delegation is here on a friendly visit. Babrak Karmal held talks with guests in a friendly and cordial atmosphere. While talking with the delegation Babrak Karmal appreciated the friendly relations between the parties, governments and peoples of these two fraternal countries and the fruitful cooperation between the National Fatherland Front (NFF) of the DRA and the Fatherland Front of the PRB.

He expressed confidence that these relations would expand and strengthen by every passing day.

Reciprocally, Krustyu Trichkov expressing gratitude for meeting Babrak Karmal said, "We in the course of our trip to your revolutionary country realised as well that under the leadership of the PDPA has gained impressive achievements. [sentence as received] Similarly, we found out that the NFF of the DRA, which is one of the great gains of the national democratic April Revolution, has decisively advanced for consolidation of national and democratic forces and has really changed into a powerful and capable front".

During this visit Bareq Shafi'i, member of the PDPA Central Committee and first deputy chairman of the Central Council of the NFF, and Peter Vulkanov, ambassador extraordinary and plenepotentiary of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, were also present.

Karmal Thanks GDR's Honecker for Greetings

AU091655 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 8 May 84 p 2

[Text] Berlin (ND) — "I am pleased to be able to note that day by day the friendly and fraternal relations between our states and peoples are further developing in various fields on the basis and in the spirit of the Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation Between Our Countries." This was stated by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] and chairman of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA], in a message to Erich Honecker, SED Central Committee general secretary and GDR State Council chairman. Babrak Karmal expresses thanks on behalf of the Central Committee of the PDPA, the Revolutionary Council, and the Afghan people to the SED Central Committee, the State Council, and the peace-loving people of the GDR for the congratulations on the occasion of the sixth anniversary of the April Revolution. At the same time he expresses his thanks for the internationalist solidarity for the revolutionary country. "I take this opportunity to wish you, Dear Comrade Erich Honecker, personal well-being and the people of the GDR many successes," the message continues.

"The achievements of the revolutionary people of the DRA under the leadership of the PDPA would have been considerably greater if the DRA were not the aim of a broad aggression of imperialism and the international reactionary forces," the message states. "The DRA will, in accordance with its foreign political course, further strive to peacefully solve the situation that has developed around Afghanistan as swiftly as possible."

Karmal Assesses Country's Economic Problems

LD112217 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 0645 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Kabul, 11 May (BAKHTAR) — At 1600 today Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the Republic, received at the headquarters of the Revolutionary Council participants in the third economic seminar of the PDPA Central Committee. In a comprehensive talk he instructed them in the execution of duties allotted to them, particularly in the economic sector.

Present at this meeting were Saleh Mohammad Ziray, Politburo member and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; Esma'il Danesh, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and minister of mines and industries; Niaz Mohammad Mohmad, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; and members of the Council of Ministers. Babrak Karmal seriously drew the attention of the seminar's participants and officials in charge of the country's economy to their duties, particularly under the circumstances of the national and democratic April Revolution.

At the beginning of his talk Babrak Karmal said: It should be pointed out that our economic activities as a whole are relatively good, particularly in the year beginning 21 March 1982, and on the basis of the instructions of the 11th plenum of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo, we managed to achieve the objectives of our plan. It was our goal that the general standard of economic life of the country should approach or equal that of the prerevolution level or the 1978 level.

As you know, we have made progress in some sectors, even more than in 1978, particularly in the public sector. This demonstrates the usefulness and progressive nature of the public sector. However, the level of the private sector in some areas is lower than that of 1978. This should be improved.

In agriculture we did not face and we are not facing any serious economic difficulties, and we have some progress and development. Likewise, in other economic sectors of the country, whether in government or party organs, relative growth has been achieved to a certain extent.

Babrak Karmal continued: We are not underestimating economic activities here. We must try to consider realistically the country's economic activities. The question is whether those comrades and cadres who are in charge of economic affairs in the party organizations are capable as a whole, from the viewpoint of learning and theory, as regards the economy or otherwise?

This is a major and serious question. Has the Economic Department, other departments of the Central Committee, and the Secretariat and Politburo of our party properly chosen economic cadres or not?

When we say that the level of responsibility in fulfilling duties, and the level of demands and examination, should be enhanced and the affairs should be controlled, who should carry out these duties? Naturally, it should oe those persons who are aware of theworth of the new line and the truly revolutionary cadres.

Babark Karmal scientifically explained, with reasons, the various aspects of economic policy, and said:

The economic issue is the base and foundation of all issues. We are in the national and democratic stage of the revolution. This is an historic stage where (?temporary steps toward) economic development exist. If we do not scientifically understand the particular features of our country, how can we understand the legitimacy of the development and evolution process of our revolution and determine each characteristic of economic duty? If we fail to realize these facts, we face grave mistakes which will bring catastrophe to our people. Although such mistakes abound in the world, we should learn from their experience.

Babrak Karmal said: Our foremost, serious, imperative, and immediate duty is to revive as early as possible all the projects which had a good role in the development of our country's economy before the April Revolution and in the first year of the revolution. They are inactive now.

The BAKHTAR correspondent adds that at the end of Babrak Karmal's speech, Zahir Mo'afaq, in charge of the economic department of Kabul city party committee; Nafas Jaheed, secretary of the Fyzabad city party committee; and Afredi, official of the economic department of Nangarhar provincial party committee, then spoke in turn. In expressing delight for Babrak Karmal's talk and instructions they gave an assurance to implement seriously and relentlessly the instructions of Babrak Karmal. They said they will not spare any devotion and self-sacrifice in this respect.

Communications Minister Departs for USSR

LD142204 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Mohammad Aslam Watanjar, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and minister of communications, heads a delegation that left today for the Soviet Union on an official and friendly visit at the invitation of the USSR minister of communications.

The delegation was seen off at Kabul International Airport by Dastagir Panjsheri, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo; deputy ministers and heads of departments of the Ministry of Communications, the deputy head of Ministry of Foreign Affairs Protocol Department, and Fikryat Akhmedzhanovich Tabeyev, ambassador of the USSR in Kabul.

Kabul Civil Court Chief Justice Defects to Pakistan

BK151026 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 15 May 84

[Text] The chief justice of the Kabul civil court, Mr (Sayed Gharib Nawaz), has fled from Afghanistan and crossed over to Pakistan. In an interview, he said that out of a total of 230 courts in Afghanistan only 50 were functioning, and the remaining have been closed as majority of the judges had either fled the country or had been jailed or killed. He said that in the country's Supreme Court, Soviet advisers were working and no judgment was announced without their permission. A 30-member committee of Soviet advisers called Revolutionary Court, he added, was entrusted with investigation work in political affairs and in the affairs of the mujahidin.

Panjsher Valley Rebels 'Totally Annihilated'

LD150628 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 15 May 84

[Text] Kabul, May 14, BAKHTAR — The security forces of the DRA have inflicted a shattering blow to the counterrevolutionary elements in Panjsher valley, this was stated by Lieutenant Lemar to Hewad correspondent. He added that during the recent operation in Panjsher valley, only the leg of one soldier was injured as a result of the explosion of a mine planted by the counterrevolution, but the casualties of the miscreants were very high which resulted in their total annihilation.

Captain Farang who has recently returned from Panjsher valley said that no counterrevolutionary bands exist throughout Panjsher valley. He pointed out that the people of Panjsher are busy returning to their villages from other parts of the country and they are engaged in resuming their normal life.

A policeman, Mohammad Gul, who is back from Panjsher says that the revolutionary power is completely maintained in the valley of Panjsher. There are no miscreants in Panjsher valley now. They have either been annihilated or fled away. The party and state personnel including the security people are busy restoring the normal life there.

'Chemical Bombs' Used Against Mujahidin in Qandahar

GF132027 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Dari 1717 GMT 13 May 84

[Excerpt] During the course of a clash between our crusading brothers and the occupying enemy in the region of Bazar-e Panjva'i in Qandahar Province, the occupying enemy used chemical bombs against our brothers and the Muslim people. This is another instance of use of chemical weapons by the enemy against the muhajidin and our Muslim people.

In an attack by our crusading brothers against the Soviet occupation forces and those deceived by Karmal in Velayat-e Paktia, at least 22 of the enemy forces were annihilated. During the course of the successful operation two enemy tanks were hit by the rocket fire of our mujahidin brothers and were destroyed.

Further Reports on Visit by Vice President Bush

Gandhi-Bush Talks Detailed

BK141641 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] At their talks in New Delhi today, the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, urged the visiting U.S. vice president, Mr George Bush, that the United States and other nations should support India's efforts to promote understanding and cooperation with Pakistan. They can do so through their policies toward the two countries.

This was stated by an official spokesman while briefing newsman about the 2-hour talks between the two leaders. He was answering a question about whether the issue of rearming of Pakistan by the United States came up at their talks today. No aides were present at the meeting between Mrs Gandhi and Mr Bush. The discussions were primarily on the international situation. Mr Bush handed over a personal letter from President Reagan to Mrs Gandhi.

Giving a resume of the discussions, the spokesman said the talks between Mrs Gandhi and Mr Bush were cordial and wide ranging, in which concerns of both the countries were discussed in an open and free manner. Bilateral matters were not taken up. The two leaders mainly discussed international developments, the global environment, including the questions of peace and disarmament.

Mrs Gandhi explained to her guest the consistent efforts India has been making to improve relations with its neighbors. She stressed the need for peace, cooperation, and stability in the area.

About China, Mrs Gandhi told the U.S. vice president of India's efforts to resolve outstanding issues with that country. She, however, pointed out that China is still in possession of a large tract of Indian territory. Besides China, the developments in Afghanistan also came up at the meeting.

The prime minister explained to Mr Bush India's policy of nonalignment and the [words indistinct] of the movement. She said India is not in any camp and does not try to impose its views on anybody.

Mr Bush explained the various aspects of the U.S. policy to Mrs Gandhi, particularly its efforts for peace and disarmament. About his country's relations with China, he said Sino-U.S. friendship is in the interest of the world.

Their discussions are likely to continue informally over a private dinner tonight given by Mrs Gandhi for Mr and Mrs Bush.

Simultaneously with the meeting between Mr Bush and Mrs Gandhi, officials of the two countries had a separate meeting which was devoted mainly to bilateral relations. The Indian side was led by the principal secretary to the prime minister, Dr Alexander. The two sides underlined the democratic framework in which both the countries are working and their commitments to democracy and freedom. The Indian delegation explained New Delhi's general foreign policy perception, its position on the Afghan issue, and the rationale of Indo-Soviet relations.

Gandhi Hosts Dinner

BK150338 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 May 84

[Excerpt] The prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, hosted a private dinner to the visiting U.S. vice president, Mr George Bush, at her residence last night when they had informal discussions on the international situation. These were a continuation of their talks earlier in the day.

During the day, Mrs Gandhi in her talks with Mr Bush urged that the United States and other nations should support India's efforts to promote understanding and cooperation with Pakistan. They can do so through their policies toward the two countries. She briefed him about the consistent efforts India has been making to improve relations with its neighbors.

Bush Holds Press Conference

BK150920 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 May 84

[Text] The U.S. vice president, George Bush, says his country is firmly committed to a strong and united India and it has no intention of threatening or (?unsettling) it. Addressing a news conference at the end of his 4-day visit to New Delhi, he justified Washington's efforts to foster closer relations with some of India's neighbors even though they do not have a democratic form of government. He, however, added that this is not at the expense of India-U.S. friendship. He said India and its neighbors have a vital long-range interest in each other's stability, and a stable South Asia is important to the world. In a prepared statement, Mr Bush told the crowded news conference that his meeting with Mrs Gandhi had given him a renewed appreciation of the Indian perspective of various problems. He described his talks with Indian leaders as productive. He found much more common ground between the two countries on a number of issues. Bilaterally, there are no insurmountable problems. He spoke very highly of India's role as the head of Nonaligned Movement and said Mrs Gandhi is doing a superb job. We salute and respect India for what it had done.

Replying to a number of questions on U.S. supply of arms to Pakistan, Mr Bush reiterated that this is not directed against India or to destabilize it. He, however, described as hypothetical a question whether the United States would guarantee that these arms will not be used against India. Asked whether U.S. arms supplies to Pakistan would be cut off if it manufactures a nuclear bomb, Mr Bush said Islamabad is fully aware of Washington's strong feelings on the issue of nuclear nonproliferation. Mr Bush reiterated that the United States sees India as a major pivotal power and the key element in a peaceful atmosphere and prosperous South Asia. He appreciated that India would like to improve relations with Pakistan and welcomed the dialogue between the two countries. He also expressed the hope that Pakistan will make what he called a demonstrable advance toward a democratic form of government.

In reply to a question, he said a visit to a country does not necessarily mean an endorsement of its system of government.

About India-U.S. relations, Mr Bush said there are no major irritants, though on some international issues there are differences, and a basis exists for a strong and enduring friendship.

Asked about the Soviet withdrawal from the coming Olympics, Mr Bush described Moscow's decision as purely political. He defended the recent agreement with China on nuclear supplies and said Washington is satisfied that Beijing will not use them to increase its military capability.

This morning, Mr Bush and his colleagues had a 90-minute meeting with the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, and his officials. The subjects discussed included the situation in West Asia, Iran-Iraq war, Central America and the role of the Nonaligned Movement. Mr Rao also told Mr Bush about India's efforts to normalize relations with Pakistan.

Bush Departs for Pakistan

BK151359 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 15 May 84

[Excerpts] The U.S. vice president, Mr George Bush, has said that his country is firmly committed to a strong and united India and has no intention of threatening or encircling it.

Mr Bush has since left New Delhi for Islamabad. On his departure, Mr Bush was given a ceremonial sendoff at the airport. Those present included the vice president, Mr Hidayatullah.

Venkataraman Notes Pakistani Troops at Border

BK140444 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] The defense minister, Mr Venkataraman, has said there has been a heavy concentration of Pakistan's troops on India's border. Speaking to newsmen at Calcutta airport, he said three-fourths of their troops were on our borders. The acquisition of sophisticated arms by Pakistan in excess of its needs has created a difficult situation.

He said India has to keep itself fully prepared for any eventuality. He said there will be no letup in India's defense preparedness.

Security Heightened at Missions in Pakistan

BK120834 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Security has been tightened at the Indian missions in Pakistan following reports that the suspected killers of a diplomat [in the United Kingdom], Mr Mhatre, have entered the country. Scotland Yard has alerted authorities in Islamabad giving names and descriptions of the suspects. The Pakistani officials have assured full protection to Indian personnel.

Curfews Lifted Following 'Peaceful' Strikes in Punjab

BK141635 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] The 1-day bundh [strike] in Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, and Jammu in protest against the assassination of noted journalist Ramesh Chandra passed off peacefully today. Normal life was affected. Commercial establishments and educational institutions remained closed for the day. In Punjab, curfew has been lifted in all the towns where it was clamped as a precautionary measure except in Jullundur and Ludhiana. In Ludhiana, 130 persons were arrested today for defying curfew orders. Last night, some unidentified miscreants fired in a locality in (Jaisu) in Faridkot district. One pers died and four others were injured in the incident.

2 Die in Shooting Incident at Punjab Train Station

BK150322 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 May 84

[Text] Some terrorists yesterday fired at the Railway Protection Force [RPF] jawans [men] on duty at (Rayya) railway station on the Jullundur-Amritsar section of the northern railway in Punjab. Two RPF jawans were killed on the spot. One extremist was injured when the RPF jawans returned the fire. The terrorists, however, took away the injured accomplice along with them while retreating. They are also reported to have taken away one rifle of the killed jawan. The terrorists are reported to have come on cycles.

President Singh Honors Indian, Soviet Cosmonauts

BK121139 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] The president, Giani Zail Singh, today honored the cosmonauts of the first joint Indo-Soviet manned space flight with Ashok Chakra and Kirit Chakra. At a special investiture ceremony held in the Darbar Hall of the Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House], the president decorated the first Indian to go into space, Squadron Leader Rakesh Sharma, with Ashok Chakra. His colleagues, Colonel Yuriy Malyshev [and] Mr Gennadiy Strekalov, were also awarded Ashok Chakra. The backup team, consisting of Colonel Anatoliy Berezovoy and Mr Georgiy Grechko, was decorated with Kirit Chakra. Speaking on the occasion, the president said India's space program is dedicated to the peaceful use of outer space for the enrichment of mankind. Giani Zail Singh congratulated the cosmonauts of the joint flight on carrying out the space mission successfully. He lauded the role played by the Indian Air Force scientists and engineers in putting the first Indian in space. Referring to the many successful projects of cooperation between India and the Soviet Union in various fields, the president expressed the hope that the cooperation between the two countries in the field of space research will be further strengthened. Those present at the ceremony included the vice president, Mr Hidayatullah; the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi; and members of the union cabinet.

Further Reports on Visit by Turkish Prime Minister

Ozal Holds Press Conference

TA141141 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1000 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Prime Minister Turgut Ozal has said that Turkey attaches importance to developing and expanding its relations with Islamic countries. Ozal, who concluded his official contacts in Islamabad, held a news conference on relations between Turkey and Pakistan and various international issues.

Ozal pointed out that the situation in Afghanistan is one of the most tragic problems in the world, adding that it is necessary to immediately terminate foreign intervention in that country. Ozal recalled that 5 million Afghans, comprising one-third of the population, left their country as a result of foreign intervention in Afghanistan. The prime minister noted that the entire Islamic world must be militarily and economically strong in a bid to solve this problem and prevent similar incidents in the future.

In his news conference, Ozal also appealed for an end to the hostilities between Iran and Iraq. He said that if Turkey and Pakistan can in any way assist in ending the war, they will not hesitate to do so. Ozal also thanked Pakistan for its support in connection with Cyprus. Later, Ozal left Islamabad for Lahore to tour historical and tourist sites. The prime minister and the delegation accompanying him will return to Turkey tonight.

Prime Minister on Cyprus

TA141557 (Clandestine) Bayrak Radio in Turkish To Cyprus 1530 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal has said that rather than spend time over the tiny island of Cyprus, the United Nations should deal with the Afghan tragedy. Replying to reporters' questions at Islamabad Airport during a visit to Pakistan, Ozal expressed pleasure with Pakistani support for the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus [TRNC] at the UN Security Council. He said: As of now, only Turkey recognizes the TRNC. However, sooner or later we will ask other Islamic countries to recognize the TRNC officially.

According to ANATOLIA, Ozal said: Let the UN Security Council cease to deal with the small Turkish Cypriot community, in Cyprus, and try to find solutions to big and important problems such as the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

The Turkish prime minister, who paid a 4-day official visit to Pakistan as the official guest of Pakistani President Ziaul Haq, has concluded his contacts. Ozal and the delegation accompanying him will return to Turkey this evening.

Ozal Details Talks With Zia

BK141407 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 14 May 84

[Excerpt] Pakistan and Turkey have decided to establish regular shipping, air transport, better telecommunications facilities, and improve other infrastructural facilities to increase and diversify their economic cooperation. This was stated by the Turkish prime minister, Mr Turgut Ozal, while addressing a news conference in Islamabad this morning before his departure for Lahore. The two countries, he said, have decided to take new measures to increase the volume of trade, including a $50 million line of credit facility provided by Turkey. The Turkish businessmen accompanying him have already signed contracts with Pakistani entrepreneurs for $10 million and are expected to sign more contracts in the near future.

Mr Turgut Ozal said he and President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, reviewing industrial cooperation, agreed that the two countries should assist each other in establishment of joint ventures and provide necessary incentives for the flow of capital, knowhow, and transfer of technology. Referring to the revival of the RCD [Regional Cooperation for Development], he said the foremost requirement was to improve the infrastructural facilities in Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey in order to make it really meaningful.

Referring to his talks with President Mohammad Ziaul Haq on international issues, he said there was identity of views on Afghanistan, the Middle East, and the Iran-Iraq war. These unresolved issues, he said, were threatening world peace and security. Pakistan and Turkey were following peaceful, moderate, and balanced policies in order to contribute to the preservation of stability in the region. He thanked Pakistan for its support to the Turkish Cypriots in their just cause.

Speaking at a civic reception on arrival in Lahore, the Turkish prime minister spoke about the deep-rooted ties of history, religion, and culture between the two countries and said his visit would further strengthen them.

Ozal Gives Banquet for Zia

BK141401 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] The Turkish prime minister, Mr Turgut Ozal, and President Mohammad Ziaul Haq have said their talks have been most rewarding and successful in every way and they will further deepen and strengthen the close relations and cooperation between the two countries. They were speaking at a return banquet given by the Turkish prime minister in honor of the president at the state guest palace in Rawalpindi tonight.

The Turkish prime minister said further deepening and strengthening of relations between Pakistan and Turkey will not only lead to their prosperity and well-being, but also contribute to the promotion of peace and stability in the region. He said he has greatly benefitted from the Pakistan president's views on international issues and his great sagacity and insight into the complex problems of the region. Mr Turgut Ozal also referred to contacts between Turkish and Pakistani businessmen on a large scale and said this could help for increased trade relations between the two countries in line with the policies of their respective governments. The Turkish prime minister referred to his visit to Tarbela and the Pakistan Ordnance Factories today and said he had been deeply impressed with what he had seen. He also commended the great progress Pakistan has achieved in

every field under the able leadership of the president. The Turkish prime minister again said they consider Pakistan as their second home and are looking forward to an early opportunity for President Ziaul Haq's visit to Turkey again.

Replying, the president said his formal and informal talks with the Turkish prime minister reflected as before the close identity of views. Once again, it has become clear that Turkey and Pakistan not only share common perceptions on regional and global issues, but also have a similarity of outlook regarding their solutions. He said a very important aspect of their talks related to bilateral relations, and he believed that Mr Ozal's visit had contributed immensely toward the promotion and developing of mutual understanding, friendship, and intimacy between the two countries. The president expressed the belief that the contacts between the two countries at the official and unofficial levels are a healthy augury for the promotion of trade and cooperation. This will undoubtedly help in the growth of bilateral, commerical, and economic cooperation.

Ishaq Khan, Erdem Sign Pact

BK141431 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] Pakistan and Turkey signed a protocol for economic and technical cooperation in Islamabad today at the conclusion of the fifth session of the Pakistan-Turkey joint ministerial commission. The protocol, expressing the two countries' determination to further expand economic cooperation, was signed by the federal finance minister, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, and the visiting Turkish deputy prime minister, Mr Kaya Erdem. It was agreed to explore the possibility of joint cooperation between the two countries in fields like agro-based and food processing industries, construction material and machinery, industries based on steel, electrical equipment, mining machinery, bus and truck manufacturing, and telecommunications industries.

The commission agreed to accord top priority to tariff preferences on selected products of the two countries, preferably under the aegis of the RCD [Regional Cooperation for Development]. The committee, while stressing the need to ratify the agreement on agriculture signed in March last year agreed that the representatives of the two sides should meet in Ankara by the end of October next to determine the areas of major interest in agriculture, health, science, and technology.

Under the protocol, the two sides agreed to add a few items which are likely to be exported from Pakistan to Turkey, like [words indistinct] urea, coke, steel billets, cotton, cotton yarn, and (?gray) cloths. Items which could be imported by Pakistan from Turkey are pharmaceuticals. It was agreed that Pakistan railways would import stainless steel sheets and other steel products worth $5.4 million out of the Turkish loan extended earlier.

About trade, it was noted that a qualitative improvement has been made and new products exchanged between the two countries. It was hoped that the total volume of trade would expand to more satisfactory levels.

The commission noted that Turkey had extended a revolving credit of $50 million to Pakistan for 1 year to help increase trade. The utilization of the credit will be discussed in detail between the two governments. The commission expressed its satisfaction over the renewal of agreement between the [word indistinct] products office of Turkey and the Rice Exports Corporation of Pakistan. It was noted that under the agreement, delivery of 20,000 tons of rice to Turkey is continuing, while another 10,000 tons is programmed during the rest of 1984. The commission noted with satisfaction that the project for progressive manufacture of automative electrical equipment has been approved by Pakistan with the participation of a Turkish firm.

The commission agreed to the regular exchange of businessmen, industrialists, contractors' delegations, and participation in each other's industrial fairs.

Prime Minister Departs 14 May

BK141557 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 May 84

[Excerpts] The Turkish prime minister and Madame Ozal were given a very warm send-off when they left Lahore for home this evening. President and Mrs Mohammad Ziaul Haq, Punjab Governor Lieutenant General Ghulam Jilani Khan, provincial ministers, and the Lahore mayor and councillors were present at the airport to bid farewell to the Turkish guests.

Talking to newsmen after the departure of the Turkish prime minister, the president expressed the hope that Mr Ozal's visit will contribute toward further promotion of bilateral relations in all fields, especially in the economic field.

Replying to a question about the mission of the UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Mr Cordovez, the president said he is hopeful that the next round of the Geneva indirect talks on Afghanistan will prove meaningful. The president has since returned to Rawalpindi.

Text of Joint Communique Following Ceausescu Visit

GF141355 Karachi DAWN in English 11 May 84 p 3

[Text of Romanian-Pakistani joint communique issued on 10 May in Islamabad at the conclusion of visit by Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu]

[Text] Islamabad, May 10 (APP): Following is the text of the joint communique issued today at the end of Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu's four-day state visit to Pakistan.

Mr Nicolae Ceausescu, president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, and Mrs Elena Ceausescu paid an official visit of friendship to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan at the invitation of the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, and Begum Ziaul Haq from May 7 to 10, 1984.

During their stay in Pakistan, the president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Mr Nicolae Ceausescu, and Mrs Elena

Ceausescu, as well as the Romanian officials accompanying them visited economic, social and cultural centres in Islamabad and Karachi. They were given a warm welcome everywhere, which was proof of the feelings of friendship and esteem mutually cherished by the peoples of the two countries. In recognition of her outstanding contribution in the field of sciences, the Quaid-i-Azam University in Islamabad conferred on Madame Elena Ceausescu the degree of doctor of sciences (honoria causa).

Mr Micolae Ceausescu, president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, and General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, held official talks. Attending the talks on the Romanian side were:

i) Madame Elena Ceausescu, first deputy prime minister; ii) H.E. Mr Gheorghe Oprea, first deputy prime minister; iii) H.E. Mr. Ion M. Nicolae, deputy prime minister; iv) H.E. Mr Stefan Andrei, minister for foreign affairs; v) H.E. Mr Constantin Mitea, adviser to the president; vi) H.E. Mr Constantin, ambassador of Romania to Pakistan; vii) Lt-Gen Iulian Vlad, deputy minister of interior; viii) Mr Constantin Manea, head of the cabinet of the president; ix) Mr Iou Talpes, director, minister of foreign trade and international economic cooperation.

Attending the talks on the Pakistan side were: i) Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, minister for finance and economic affairs; ii) Mr Arbab Niaz Mohammad, minister for culture, sports and tourism; iii) Dr Mahbubul Haq, minister for planning and development; iv) Raja Zafarul Haq, minister for information and broadcasting; v) Dr Mohammad Asad, minister of state for petroleum; vi) Mr Ejaz A. Naik, secretary general, economic affairs division; vii) Mr Niaz A. Naik, foreign secretary; viii) Lt-General Mujibur Ahman, secretary information; ix) Mr Hasan Zaheer, secretary production; x) Mr Izharul Haque, secretary commerce, ix) Maj General Malik Abdul Waheed, COS [chief of staff] to the president, xii) Mr S.S. Iqbal Husain, ambassador in Romania; xiii) Mr Najmuddin A. Shaikh, additional secretary foreign affairs.

During the talks, which were conducted in a cordial atmosphere of friendship, full understanding and mutual respect, the two heads of state informed each other about the preoccupation of their countries in economic and social fields, made a thorough analysis of the level reached by the bilateral relations at present in the political, economic, technological, scientific, cultural and other areas of mutual interest, and had an ample exchange of views on the main problems of contemporary international affairs. They also recalled the important joint declaration they had signed in Bucharest in January 1982.

When dealing with development of bilateral relations, the presidents laid special stress on the expansion of trade, exchanges, and the amplification of cooperation. They also made a number of decisions conducive to more intensified and diversified bilateral economic cooperation on a mutually beneficial basis in keeping with the interest of the Romanian and Pakistani peoples. During the visit, the Romanian officials accompanying President Nicolae Ceausescu held working meetings with Pakistani officials where they worked out concrete measures for the implementation of the directions given by the presidents of Romania and Pakistan with respect to the development of bilateral economic relations.

The two heads of states were gratified to point out that a number of decisions had been made since the ninth session of the joint governmental commission on economic, scientific and technical cooperation (Bucharest 1983), which led to the consolidation of bilateral relations. They expressed their confidence that the tenth session of the joint commission, to be held in Pakistan in the second half of 1984, while starting from the results of the present Islamabad summit talks, would presage even more significant achievement in economic cooperation between the two countries.

Expressing their satisfaction at the experience gathered while jointly implementing the Karachi national refinery, the two heads of state agreed that further action should be taken in the future for the more efficient utilisation of each other's economic capabilities. The two sides would encourage specialised enterprises and agencies in Romania and Pakistan to act with a view to identifying the necessary ways and means to maximise the utilisation of opportunities to amplify the economic cooperation on a mutually beneficial basis.

Appreciating the progress scored so far in the field of scientific and technical cooperation, the two sides agreed to intensify direct contacts between the specialised institutions and agencies in their countries carried out jointly with due consideration to the needs of the Romanian and Pakistani economies. The two sides also agreed to intensify their cooperation in such fields as staff training, culture, fine arts, tourism and information exchanges in order to achieve a better mutual acquaintance and understanding between the two countries and peoples.

The following documents were signed during the visit: A) an agreement on collaboration in the field of posts and telecommunication; and B) an agreement on economic, trade, technical and scientific cooperation and the protocol appended thereat.

Noting with satisfaction that the two countries hold identical or very similar views on most contemporary world issues, the two presidents emphasised that there countries constantly pursued a policy of building international relations on the solid foundation of the well-known principles that should govern inter-state relationships, taking firm action for the reduction of world tension for general disarmament and first of all nuclear disarmament, for the elimination of underdevelopment, for the establishment of the new international economic order and the settlement of all issues by political means, through negotiations and the consolidation of the policy of peace, independent development, security and cooperation all over the world. With a view to further consolidating the existing cooperation in international affairs, the two presidents decided to intensify the contacts and consultations between their countries at the United Nations organisation and its specialised agencies, within the "Group of 77" and the non-aligned movement, so that Romania and Pakistan may make a yet greater contribution to the settlement of the major issues of international affairs and to the promotion of peace and cooperation all over the world.

The president of the Socialist Republic of Romania and the president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan highly valued the

fruitful results of their talks and emphasised that the official visit of friendship paid to Pakistan by the president of the Socialist Republic of Romania and the documents concluded during the visit made a highly valuable contribution to the expansion of the traditional relations of friendship and collaboration between the Socialist Republic of Romania and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

The president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Mr Nicolae Ceausescu, and Mrs Elena Ceausescu extended their warm thanks to the president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, and Begum Ziaul Haq for the warm reception and special hospitality they enjoyed all through their visit to Pakistan. At the same time, the president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Mr Nicolae Ceausescu, and Mrs Elena Ceausescu cordially invited the president of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Begum Ziaul Haq to pay an official visit of friendship to Romania. The invitation was accepted with pleasure. The time of the visit is to be agreed upon through diplomatic channels.

Interior Minister To Visit Iran 22-25 May

GF131814 Karachi DAWN in English 11 May 84 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, May 10 — The interior minister, Mr Mahmud A. Haroon, will visit Iran from May 22 to 25, in response to an invitation extended by the Iranian interior minister, Mr 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri.

The visit is in the context of bilateral contacts designed to increase cooperation between the two countries.

It may be recalled that the Iran interior minister visited Pakistan in December, last year — PPI.

Niger President Kountche Makes Brief Stopover

BK140917 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] The Niger president, Mr Seyni Kountche, made a brief stopover at the Karachi airport early this morning on his way from Beijing to Niamey.

Recent Religious Restrictions on Qadianis Praised

GF141422 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 28 Apr 84 p 3

[Excerpts] People from all schools of thought, scholars, and leaders have welcomed the latest ordinance whereby Mirza Ghulam Ahmad's followers — whether they belong to the Lahori group or the Qadiani group — are banned from calling themselves Muslims, propagating Islamic teachings, or using appellations reserved only for the holy prophet (peace be upon him), the holy spouses of the prophets, their families, the great caliphs, and the associates of the holy prophet (peace be upon him) since the inception of Islam.

Now President Ziaul Haq has the honor of taking concrete legal steps in fulfilling the demands of so many Muslims.

It is not difficult to prove from the writings of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, his successors, and followers that their interpretation of the finality of prophethood is not only contrary beliefs of the Muslims of the whole world, but according to this sect, the line of prophethood extends to Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, even though his successors have not professed claims to prophethood, and content themselves with the title of "khalifahs."

We thank God that the hundred-year-old struggle of the Muslims of Pakistan has borne fruit and the Ziaul Haq government has the honor of safeguarding the belief of the finality of prophethood with legal measures.

Strike Paralyzes Transport in Baluchistan

GF132028 Karachi DAWN in English 10 May 84 p 12

[Text] Mastung, May 9 — The entire public transport system in the province was paralysed as the drivers and operators continued their protest strike on the third consecutive day on Wednesday, following the killing of two truck drivers — one by the dacoits and the other in a police firing in Katchhi district of Baluchistan.

Quetta, Mastung, Pishin, Sibi, Khuzdar and other towns were affected.

The striking drivers and operators blocked the main highways leading to the provincial capital and parked their vehicles in the entire historic Bolan Pass, down to the Katchhi and Sibi plains, uphills in Sarawan and Jhalawan and in Pishin and Kutchlak in the north.

The auto-rickshaw drivers and bus operators in Quetta city and other towns and cities also joined the strike in sympathy with the striking drivers.

The worst affected were the patients who were denied transport facilities to reach the provincial government hospital in Quetta and other smaller health care centers in the province.

Meanwhile, the administration has rounded up top leaders of the strikers, including Malik Dad Mohammad Shawani, Malik Mohammad Yusuf Shawan, Haji Abdul Razzak Shawan and Feroz Dehri.

BANGLADESH

Reports on Visit by Burmese Foreign Minister

Arrival 11 May

BK110308 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 1700 GMT 10 May 84

[Text] Burmese Foreign Minister U Chit Hlaing arrived in Dhaka this afternoon on a 3-day good-will visit to Bangladesh. Foreign Minister A.R. Shamsud Doha received him at the airport. Burmese Deputy Minister of Culture U Than Maung is accompanying U Chit Hlaing.

Talking to newsmen, the Burmese foreign minister said that he was very happy to come to Bangladesh.

The formal talks between the foreign ministers of Bangladesh and Burma will be held tomorrow. During his stay in Dhaka, U Chit Hlaing will call on President Ershad and two deputy chief martial law administrators — Rear Admiral M.A. Khan and Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud.

Shamsud Doha Hosts Dinner

BK111405 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] The Burmese foreign minister, U Chit Hlaing, has said Bangladesh and Burma have always tried to settle problems between them in a spirit of reconciliation, good will, and understanding. He was speaking at a dinner given in his honor by Foreign Minister A.R. Shamsud Doha. The Burmese minister said that good and friendly relations between the two countries have been developing steadily. He said the two neighboring countries are engaged in the task of promoting political advancement, economic development, and social progress of the two peoples.

Speaking on the occasion, Foreign Minister A.R. Shamsud Doha noted with satisfaction that relations between the two countries witnessed a steady and promising growth since they established diplomatic ties. He said exchanges of visits at the highest level have vividly demonstrated the dynamism and durability of relations between the two countries.

Formal talks between Bangladesh and Burma are being held today.

Chit Hlaing Assesses Talks

BK131627 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] The Burmese foreign minister, U Chit Hlaing, has said he had very friendly and fruitful discussions with his Bangladesh counterpart, Mr A.R. Shamsud Doha, on matters of bilateral cooperation. He told newsmen before leaving Dhaka at the end of his 3-day good-will visit that he exchanged views with Bangladesh leaders on matters of mutual interest. He said they will continue talks on various issues at a mutually convenient date. He said he was in Bangladesh on a friendship visit and the relations between Bangladesh and Burma are marked by better understanding. The boundary agreement is honored by both the countries and the border is friendly and secured.

Mr A.R. Shamsud Doha in this connection said he will pay a return visit as early as possible to continue consultation.

Chit Hlaing Departs

BK131201 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 1700 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Burmese Foreign Minister U Chit Hlaing left this afternoon for Rangoon at the end of his 3-day goodwill visit to Bangladesh.

SRI LANKA

Athulathmudali: Kidnapped Americans Not Yet Found

BK151313 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 15 May 84

[Excerpts] The kidnapped American couple have not yet been found even though reports from south India said that they have been released. The minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, told a news briefing a little while ago that the authorities have searched all the places mentioned by certain sources in south India and was not able to find the couple. They have engaged the services of the police, military, civilians and reached all possible places. All their efforts have proved futile. We have explored all avenues possible, the minister said.

He said that the authorities were more interested in finding the American couple than running after the kidnappers.

Minister Urges Allens' Release

BK151123 Colombo International service in English 1045 GMT 15 May 84

[Text] The minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, said in Colombo today that he wished to tell the kidnappers that if they were prepared to bring the Allen family (?to release them), the authorities would not try to attack them. He said: Bring them and leave them anywhere in Sri Lanka or in south India. He said that he would arrange a civilian authority to pick up the Allens anywhere if the kidnappers so wished.

Mr Athulathmudali stated he was hopeful that the Allens were alive. He declared: The world should now be reassured that the Allens are alive.

The minister said: Let the kidnappers make some arrangements to allow the Allens speak to us. We want to hear the voices of the Allens.

The minister, who was speaking to newsmen at a briefing a short while ago, said that the only information they had was the

statement issued by a person in Madras called (Sentil), who claimed to be a member of the Central Committee of the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Forces. His statement was: They have been released. They have also said that they were frightened of any Army trap.

Answering a question as to how the Allens could be brought through the surveillance zone, the minister said that if it was necessary they could be granted clearance to come through the zone.

The minister also announced that a team of doctors, medicines, and an aircraft were kept in readiness to pick up the Allens.

Press Reports Couple Found

BK151507 Hong Kong AFP in English 1439 GMT 15 May 84

[Excerpts] Colombo, May 15 (AFP) — Sri Lankan authorities said today they had no idea of the whereabouts of a kidnapped American couple despite reports from India that they had been released.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told a press conference here: "We have done everything possible, searched all the possible areas where the American couple are said to have been released."

However, Indian newspapers said this morning that Stanley Allen, 36, and his wife Mary, 29, were found released unharmed yesterday.

Earlier, official sources here said they believed Tamil separatist guerrillas had released the Allens, who they kidnapped from their home in Jaffna, northern Sri Lanka, on Thursday.

The Indian newspaper reports quoted Sri Lankan security officials as saying they were found last night on a highway at Kilinochchi, some 72 kilometers (about 50 miles) south of Jaffna on the main road to Colombo.

An Army patrol picked them up after receiving a tip that the couple would be found in the area near a point called Elephant Pass, the reports said.

The Army's Northern Command said it took the Allens into custody, the reports added.

The Tamil Eelam Liberation Front, one of several separatist groups fighting to set up a separate state in northern and eastern Sri Lanka, released a statement in Madras accusing the Sri Lankan Government of withholding news of the release in a "sinister propaganda" move.

Search Continues for Couple

BK150936 Hong Kong AFP in English 0925 GMT 15 May 84

[Excerpts] Colombo, May 15 (AFP) — Sri Lankan security forces hunting for a kidnapped American couple virtually cordoned off the country's north today as the national security minister cast doubt on whether the hostages had been released.

Earlier, official sources had said that Tamil separatist guerrillas had released Stanley and Mary Allen, who they kidnapped from their home in Jaffna, northern Sri Lanka, on Thursday. Mr. Allen, 36, was working on a U.S.-aided water management project there.

The ransom deadline passed without news of their fate. Official sources here said they thought the Allens had been released late yesterday somewhere near the town of Kilinochchi, 256 kilometers (160 miles) north of here. However, National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told a press briefing that it was uncertain whether they had been set free. "It is 24 hours since the deadline was passed at noon yesterday," he said.

Meanwhile, Sri Lankan security forces intensified the search for the couple, combing the jungles in the Jaffna District. Land, sea and air units patrolled a surveillance zone around the Jaffna Peninsula on the northeast and northwest of the country. Anybody wanting to cross the zone must apply to the naval commander.

Across the Palk Straits dividing Sri Lanka and India, Indian troops hunted for the couple following reports that the kidnappers might have crossed over into Tamil Nadu State, the original Tamil homeland, with [words indistinct].

Mr. Athulathmudali said that the guerrillas should not fear being ensnared by the security forces. "We are not trying to trap them. Just leave (the hostages) and go away", he said, reiterating that the government would not pay the ransom. Civilian authorities could collect the Allens from where they are released, he said, and doctors and aircraft were standing by in case of emergency. The minister also asked to hear the voices of the hostages so their safety could be assured.

The EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] statement said that they would release the Allens, as they had succeeded in drawing world attention to their cause.

Two More Tankers Attacked South of Khark Island

NC151030 Paris AFP in English 1025 GMT 15 May 84

[Text] Manama, May 15 (AFP) — Two oil tankers, the Greek *Esperanza* and the Iranian *Tabriz*, have been attacked and are on fire south of Iran's Khark Island in the Gulf today, an official of the Gulf Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment here said.

The location of the two ships appeared to correspond to Iraq's announcement yesterday that it had hit "two important naval targets" south of Khark Sunday night.

The *Esperanza* was blazing some 10 kms (6 miles) south of Khark, the official said. The *Tabriz* was also said to be in flames south of the Saudi tanker *Al-Ahud*, attacked last week and now anchored off the Iranian port of Bushehr.

He said both ships were carrying oil but he could not confirm they had loaded at Khark.

Two Kuwaiti tankers were struck by missiles Sunday and yesterday. The latest attacks bring to six the number of vessels hit in the Gulf since April 26.

The Gulf organization official said he did not know whether the Greek and Iranian ships were leaking.

He said the Saudi tanker *Al-Ahud* was still burning today, eight days after it was attacked, but that there had so far been no leakage from its holds containing 140,000 tonnes of crude.

The Kuwaiti *Umm Casbah* was still anchored off Bahrain pending completion of an investigation by Kuwaiti military and maritime authorities, he said. It would have to be dry-docked for repairs in Bahrain.

Kuwaiti officials had at first said damage to the *Umm Casbah* Sunday was minor and could be repaired at sea.

Tehran Cites AFP Report

GF151208 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 15 May 84

[Text] A report by AFP from the Bahraini capital of Manama indicated that an oil tanker belonging to [words indistinct] (?and carrying) a load of oil from Kuwait to Britain was hit by a missile fired by an unidentified plane. [Words indistinct] which was carrying 76,500 tons of crude oil was transferred to ports in Bahrain after being hit with a missile. Accurate reports on the extent of the losses inflicted on the tanker have not yet been released.

It is worth mentioning that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran issued a warning on Sunday to the Iraqi regime against fomenting tension and intrigue in the region.

'Conspiracy' in Gulf Condemned

GF150826 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0447 GMT 15 May 84

[Unattributed commentary: "Oppression's Sedition in the Persian Gulf"]

[Excerpts] For a long time now the oppression has been trying to change the war imposed by the regime of Saddam on the Islamic Republic into a regional quarrel in order to find a way for its own escape. This, in its opinion, is also a way to involve the Islamic Republic of Iran against an extensive military, economic, and political front. The enemy has been preparing the ground for such conditions for a long time. The oppression and its various agents have repeatedly referred to the imposed war as the Gulf war. They have tried to portray it on occasions as the war between Arabs and non-Arabs and on other occasions a war between Sunnis and Shi'ites.

The actions of the Saddam regime in attacking a number of oil tankers, the attempt at making oil shipping lines in the Persian Gulf unsafe, and the support of a number of regimes for this new song of the oppression is the start of a phase of this conspiracy which seems to have been prepared in great detail by the oppression circles of East and West. Naturally, such suspicious imperialist activities and conspiracy is not unknown to the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran and all the sources who follow the activities of the oppression in this sensitive region. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran in its revealing statement has stressed that their goals are to prevent the establishment of security and stability in the Persian Gulf and to expand the crisis in the region in order to deprive the Islamic Republic of Iran and the nations of the region of their legal and vital interests, in order to maintain the major bases in imperialism in Iraq and a number of countries in the southern part of the Persian Gulf and for the sake of continuing the military rule of imperialism over the Persian Gulf region.

The Foreign Ministry in its statement reveals these dangerous plots against the nations and the progressive forces of the region, declaring that the Islamic Republic of Iran will not tolerate the destabilization of order, stability, and security in the Persian Gulf and that any adventure by the regime of Iraq, carried out in the Persian Gulf with U.S. backing, will be faced with the natural reaction of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This is because the security of the Persian Gulf is of vital importance to Iran and the nations of the region and any interference in the security of the Persian Gulf, with the aid and support of imperialism and Zionism, is in fact an act of open aggression against the legal rights of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The conspiracy of the oppression in the Persian Gulf, as we noted, has a variety of political, military, and economic dimensions. They believe that they will be able to force our revolutionary nation out of the scene by resorting to economic pressures or that they may be able to force the Islamic Republic to forgo its rightful position or legal rights. However, they should realize that if free passage in the Persian Gulf is disturbed, it would not only be harmful to the Islamic Republic of Iran, since we are able to withstand such pressures with our capabilities, but the other countries of the region doubtlessly will not be able to withstand

this. The Islamic Republic, which has a popular government; this republic whose people have withstood the hardships of the revolution and have put it behind them; the Islamic Republic, whose people are ready to accept more hardships for the sake of the Lord; the Islamic Republic, whose people and government are side by side and whose government seeks the aid of the people and receives it whenever it needs it; the Islamic Republic, with these attributes, will not be the biggest loser as a result of crisis in the Persian Gulf region.

Those who have no nation by the side of their government nor any facilities for domestic production and agriculture will be the ones to suffer, since they are the ones who are forced to even import their vegetables and water. Considering the fact that this is as clear as the light of day, it is surprising that there are some individuals who are still living in a dream and see their interests as those of the interests of the oppression and have tied their destiny with Saddam. The oppression and the group of regimes which are in the trap of the oppression and are aiding such adventures without giving any thought to its repercussions must be afraid of the anger of Muslim nations. They must realize that siding with oppression against the interests of the nations of the region has no future, since under the current circumstances the time of the rule of oppression is at an end and the star of the ruffians of the East and West is setting. The wave of awareness which is now engulfing all the Muslim and oppressed masses makes hanging onto the thread offered by the oppression a fall into the quicksand of annihilation.

Declaration Issued as Friday Imams Congress Closes

LD141120 Tehran IRNA in English 0900 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 13, IRNA — In the final session of the second global congress of the world Friday prayers leaders today, a declaration was issed by the congress. Excerpts:

With the emergence of Islam as a...liberating school of thought and the maturity and awareness of the Muslim ummah [community], the East and West see their interests in jeopardy.... In order to secure the areas under their domination, they (the East and West) have not found a solution other than to sow discord among Muslim peoples and to ruthlessly suppress the Islamic movements....

Here we see the unity of Muslims is the only way to safeguard the dignity of Islam and to carry out the mission on saving humanity from the quagmire of infidelity, oppression and corruption....

With knowledge of these facts, the Islamic Revolution, under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni, realised true unity among the Muslim masses of Iran from the very beginning...and for this purpose, the honourable Faqih [words indistinct], Ayatollah al-Uzma Montazeri, proposed "Unity Week" (of Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims) to be held so that Islamic ulema and scholars would study the grounds for a practical unity among the ummah and take steps for its realisation...

The Friday and congregational prayers leaders, while sending their greetings to the hope of the oppressed of the world, Imam Khomeyni...present the outcome of their general meeting and... discussions on Islamic matters in this declaration and pray to the Almighty for success in achieving true Islamic unity and the implementation of the following points:

1. Since confrontation with world arrogance and infidelity can only be achieved through the united movement of the world of Islam, the unity of the ummah of Islam is an indispensible first step in the path for the victory of Islam and Muslims.

2. By being equipped with a towhidi (monotheistic) view and true Islamic culture, we will reject all forms of dependence on the East and West and we will do our best in realising our ummah's independent Islamic identity.

3. With concern to the destructive, divisive and aggressive role of Zionism in the heart of the Islamic world, we see it as the main and most serious threat. We declare that it is the Islamic duty of Muslims to liberate all the occupied lands of Palestine and liberate the Al-Aqsa mosque. We also reject all conciliatory play in this regard. As a first move in the materialisation of this holy goal, we will honour the last Friday of the month of Ramadan, as Imam Khomeyni has declared "International Jerusalem Day," and cry out our condemnation of international Zionism.

4. In view of the global aspect of the Islamic school of thought and the need for the implementation of its...laws among Muslims, we honour the first blossoming of the divine (Islamic) movement in the Islamic land of Iran and we will exert all our efforts to defend the ideals of this holy Islamic Revolution and will not hesitate to carry out every effort for its internationalisation.

5. With concern to the fundamental role of a leader with full knowledge of Islam and the times for the formation of true unity among Muslims, we accept Ayatollah al-Uzma Imam Khomeyni as having the necessary qualifications for the imamat (leadership) of Muslims, and we will invite Muslims to follow his call.

6. ...We declare our support for all Islamic, liberation and independent movements and we strongly condemn the oppressive aggression of the Soviet Union to Afghanistan, and that of the United States and Israel against the deprived nation of Lebanon....

7. We believe the flagrant aggression of the Ba'thist Iraqi regime against the Islamic Republic of Iran (which was the manifestation of the fear of the superpowers of the spread of the Islamic movement) to be an aggression against Islam and we condemn it....

8. We, the Friday and congregational prayers leaders, give commitment to see a return to the true purpose of Islam's spiritual and political ceremony of hajj — the great centre of the manifestation of the glorious unity of Muslims — in order to make the Islamic ummah aware of their plight....

9. We will hold the Friday prayers, which is the key to unity, dignity and power of Muslims, as gloriously as we can and in its sermons we will speak on the vital and basic issues of the Islamic world...and further reveal the plots of the oppressive superpowers..."

Maltese Foreign Minister Visits Country

LD111509 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] The foreign affairs minister of Malta and an accompanying delegation arrived this morning in Tehran. They were welcomed by the under secretary for international and economic affairs at the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

The Maltese foreign affairs minister will hold talks with Iranian officials on the expansion of economic, commercial, and political relations between the two countries.

Velayati Meets With Trigona

LD121913 Tehran IRNA in English 1613 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 12, IRNA — The visiting foreign affairs minister of Malta, Alex Sceberra Trigona, in a meeting here today with his Iranian counterpart, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, called for expansion of political, economic and cultural relations with Malta and also opening of a diplomatic representation of the Islamic Republic of Iran there.

Velayati, referring to the independent policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran and its successful battle against domination of superpowers following the victory of the Islamic Revolution, hoped that cooperation between the two countries in international circles and other fields would be further expanded.

Furthermore, Velayati talked about efforts of certain countries to impose a peace in the Iraqi imposed war without taking into account the violated rights of the Islamic Republic of Iran or finding the roots of aggression. He described these measures as "efforts to save the Iraqi ruler from downfall." He reiterated that the Islamic Republic of Iran would not tolerate such efforts through which some have been trying to pull themselves out of isolation and gain themselves prestige. Such efforts would be rejected by Iran, he said.

Trigona Departs 14 May

LD141258 Tehran IRNA in English 0913 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 14, IRNA — Foreign Affairs Minister of Malta Alexander Trigona concluded his three-day visit to Iran and left Tehran for his country this morning. He was seen off by his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati at Mehrabad Airport here.

During his stay in the country, Iran and Malta signed a note of understanding. Mr. Trigona also met and held talks with Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, Foreign Minister Velayati, and Heavy Industries Minister Behzad Nabavi.

29 Prisoners Released Soon Under Khomeyni Pardon

LD131257 Tehran IRNA in English 0914 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 13, IRNA — Some 29 prisoners from the country's various prisons have been pardoned by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and will be released soon, announced the public relations office of the prisons' supervision council.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,726

LD141746 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 May 84

[Communique No 1,726 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] On the Piranshah, Sar Dasht, and Marivan fronts, while defending the positions in each region, the Iranian forces with the artillery and mortar fire on enemy positions and communications routes silenced enemy fire, set fire to some of the positions of the forces of Saddam, and killed some of their personnel.

According to the reports received from the Ground Forces, the enemy losses and casualties in Piranshah region included the complete destruction of an ammunition depot and a number of weapons bunkers as well as the death of six of the forces of Saddam. In Panjwin region our patrols, with continuous efforts, performed necessary reconnaisance of the enemy defensive positions and their units. In this region some blows were also delivered upon the Iraqi forces by the Ground Forces' artillery fire.

During the firing in the country's western and southern fronts the victorious fighters of Islam, who enjoyed fire superiority, brought active enemy weapons under artillery and heavy weapons fire, and while silencing the fire of the Iraqi forces, they also destroyed one mortar-launcher, one 106-mm gun, two vehicles and one bulldozer, together with a large number of bunkers.

The exchange of fire was more intense in Qasr-e Shirin, Sumar, and Majnun Island.

On Arvand Rud fronts with heavy artillery and Katyusha fire by the fighters of the Ground Forces and the Gendarmerie, more than 14 weapons bunkers and observation posts and 1 ammunition depot of the Iraqi forces were set on fire and destroyed. In addition to silencing the fire of the mercenaries of Saddam, at least 20 of their personnel were killed or wounded.

Yesterday Abadan came under the fire of the long-range weapons of the forces of Saddam, as the result of which a number of houses and shops were damaged and a few fires broke out in a few places of the town.